



Head Start Herald

June 2004 - Newsletter

Children are our most valuable resource



FROM THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Summer can be such a fun, exciting time for children. I am sure we all remember those carefree days of our childhood! Unfortunately, with that carefree attitude, we and especially our children can get a little careLESS. Summer activities can be fun, but also dangerous. Be sure that your children are well supervised around any water activities. Children can drown in as little as a couple of inches of water. Don't depend on life rafts and floating toys to keep your children safe. They need you and your watchful eyes on them at all times when they are around water.



The warm days of summer mean lots of outdoor play. First and foremost make sure your children are supervised at all times. Preschool children are too young to be allowed to play outside, even in a fenced in yard, without adult supervision. Keep your children within your sight at all times. Teach your children about staying out of the street and what to do if someone tries to take them without your permission.

Warm days also mean lots of sunshine. The beginnings of skin cancer start before children are 18 years old. Make sure your children wear sunscreen while they are outside, even on cloudy days. Everyone should wear sunscreen and be careful in the sun because everyone is susceptible to skin cancer. We should all wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses while outside as well. Take care to protect your children from bug bites by using a safe insect repellent and wear long sleeved shirts and long pants. Check your children often for ticks and bug bites. Ticks can cause Lyme disease and mosquitoes can spread several diseases.

I hope you all have a fun and safe summer!

Tammy Petrowicz

Your Child's Well-Being: Fun in the Sun!

School's out for summer! As a kid, that was one of my most joyous times of the year. During the school year, playing after school was always cut short by having to do homework, or coming in for dinner, or my mother just plain didn't want us out after dark. During the school year, playing outside on weekends was always interrupted by going grocery shopping, or doing Saturday chores before we could go anywhere, or interrupted by a "Sunday drive" family outing. But when school's out for summer, the sun stays out later and there's all this extra time to play outside.

My brother and I remember the forts we made in the woods, camping, and "hunting" with our B-B guns. "Careful with that gun, you'll put your eye out!" My brother was forever getting poison ivy and poison sumac. We don't remember much about when we were younger than that, though. We don't remember getting lost on the beach, all turned around among all those strangers and Frisbees and sunbathers, and noise from radios and the crashing waves and the gulls overhead, and the smell of salt and ...Hey, where was that wet spray on my face coming from, anyway?



And where's my mommy and daddy? Where did they go? Suddenly, we were **lost** just a few feet away! I'm told I started to run off in the wrong direction. Confusion and panic set in. I must have thought I knew where I saw them last. I do remember the sunburn, blistered from head to toe, and staying in bed for a week with sun poisoning.

Summertime is both fun and dangerous. Children play in the neighborhood, on the playground, and at the park. They need to be careful playing on the swings or hanging upside down on the monkey bars. Children need to know not to ride tricycles in the street. They need to know better than to go off with strangers. They need to stay away from



Head Start Herald

June 2004 - Newsletter

Children are our most valuable resource



unfamiliar pets and animals and bumble bees. They need to get out of the sun and wear sunscreen. There's a lot for young children to learn even though they are not in class. And parents get to teach them.

So, how do we teach children positive habits? Well, for one thing, there is Safety Town. Every summer York County sponsors Safety Town where volunteers teach parents and their children the fundamentals of a variety of safety concerns: Fire, Water, Traffic, Plants, Household, and Animal Safety; and Drugs, Guns, and Stranger Danger.

Correcting children when they do something wrong is another thing we can do to teach children, but then it's too late. Still, we could take an opportunity like that to actually explain how to do things the right way. We can role model by doing the right thing ourselves. Parents can go to Safety Town and learn some safety fundamentals for themselves. They can take their five year olds to Safety Town to learn children's safety fundamentals. Parents and children can talk about safety habits together. Parents can look for every little good thing a child does and give him/her positive attention for that, making sure the child is aware of what the attention is for. In other words, "*Catch 'em being good!*" also means to encourage acts of safety. Have fun this summer, and be safe.

By Kevin M. Cusce, LCSW

News From The Head Start Teaching Staff

Summer is here and we are excited about the things that we have planned for our learning adventures. We hope that your children will enjoy these experiences with us. Our theme for the month is "Summertime" and as you might guess, our activities will be centered around this theme. The children will learn how to identify the signs of summer, how to stay safe at the beach, near the water, in the park, in their own yard or in the neighborhood.

As always we would like to extend an invitation to all of our parents to come and join us in our classrooms and see first hand what your children are learning. Please take some time out of your busy schedule to be a part of your child's learning at Head Start.

We will also be scheduling field trips and will send home notices about those trips when they are set. Please check your child's backpack for these notices.

Ms. Dandridge and Mrs. Julien

Parent & Child Home Activity

Talk to your child about water safety now that the weather is nice and pools, the beach and water parks are opened.

June Birthdays



Wanda Strickland	17	Alyssa Patterson	23
Mary Tiller	24	Devin Jackson	28

Head Start Volunteers

Again, we extend our appreciation to the entire group of parent, RIF reader, college student, and other volunteers who have come in and shared their valuable time with us during the month of May 2004. They were:

Parents/Family

Crystal Armstead
Sandra Bey
Deanna Brooks
Carla Brown
Evan Burgess
Rashida Burgess
Manuela Butler
Heather Cash
Serena Christian
Tiffany Christian
Jane Cooke
Terry Cooke
Michele Credle
Joy Davis
Henrietta Doyal
Rolanda Frazier
Jovan Golden
Hilda Graham
Shannon Greenhow
Tina Grubbs
Rebecca Heiney
Malissa James
Alfred Johnson
Carolyn Jones
Rashida King
Norma Leon
Heather Mann
Joy Moore
Tammy Roy
Veronda Ruffin

Parents/Family

Frederick Sparks
Pamela Stephens
Dell Swinton
Tranee' Swinton
Rodolfo Urrea
Bob Zacharias
Juli Zacharias

RIF Readers

George Baur
Bill Deaver
Sam Fletcher
Tom O'Malley
Jack Snell
Perry Stone
Don Swain

College Students

Kirsten Saboe

Other

Nikki Atkinson
Belinda Brown
Debbie Comeford
Joy Davis
Helen Green
Sherri McKinney
Chris Russell
Krista Stein

ATTENTION PARENTS!

You are invited and encouraged to attend
a very important and informative training
about

Recognizing Household Poisons and Preventing Accidental Poisoning

Tuesday, June 15, 2004 - 5:45 p.m.
Griffin-Yeates Center

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS ARE POISONOUS,
ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN?

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO IDENTIFY POISONS IN YOUR HOUSE, ROOM BY ROOM?

DO YOU KNOW THE PROPER FIRST AID TREATMENT IF YOUR CHILD IS
ACCIDENTALLY POISONED?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE LABELS ON HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS?
HOW HAZARDOUS? WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE TERMS.

HOW MANY POISON PREVENTION TIPS CAN YOU THINK OF?

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

HOW CAN YOU SAFELY DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS?

IF YOU HAD TROUBLE ANSWERING ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, YOU ARE IN
LUCK. HEAD START AND CDR FIRST STEPS WILL OFFER A TRAINING CLASS ON
POISON PREVENTION ON JUNE 15TH AT THE GRIFFIN-YEATES CENTER @ 5:45.
DINNER AND CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED.

**RSVP REQUIRED BY THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH SO WE WILL KNOW HOW MUCH
FOOD TO PREPARE AND HOW MANY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ARE NEEDED.**

PLEASE CALL **890-3888** IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS INFORMATIVE SESSION.
THE TRAINING IS OPEN TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED
THE HEAD START PROGRAM AS WELL AS PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE HERE
FOR THE SUMMER OR WHO WILL RETURN IN THE FALL.